

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3872

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, JO, SY, CI

SUBJ: CHILEAN-ARAB RELATIONS: MUTUAL BACK SCRATCHING

REFA) SANTIAGO 4692 B) CAIRO 6181

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN POLITICAL MISSION WAS MARKED BY MUTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF HIGH ESTEEM AND BY EFFORTS OF EACH SIDE TO MAKE MOST OF COMMENTS OF OTHER FOR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. WHILE EGYPTIANS TRIED TO MAKE GOC DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR UN RESOLUTION 242 SOUND LIKE NEW, PRO-ARAB POLICY, CHILEAN RESPONDED WITH DELIGHT TO EGYPTIAN STATEMENT THAT CHILEAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE NOT RPT NOT PROPER SUBJECT FOR FOREIGN CONCERN. EGYPTIAN DELEGATE CHARACTERIZED ARMS PACT WITH USSR AS NECESSARY EVIL. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN FONMINISTRY DELEGATION TOURING LATIN AMERICA
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REACHED CHILE JULY 2. AMB ALI KABIL EXPLAINED TO PRESS THAT

MISSION HAD TWO OBJECTIVES: INFORM GOC OF ARAB VIEW OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WITH AIM OF OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR ARAB SIDE, AND SEEK WAYS TO BROADEN BILATERAL RELATIONS. MISSION CALLED ON PRESIDENT PINOCHET, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE, PROVIDED INTERVIEWS TO PRESS, AND WAS FETED BY LOCAL ARAB COMMUNITY.

3. MISSION EXPRESSED ITS GRATITUDE FOR "CLARIFICATION" OF GOC POSITION (REPORTED REF A) ON MIDDLE EAST, AND SIGNED DOCUMENT "ACTIVATING" 1960 EGYPTIAN-CHILEAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT WHICH IS TO PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARSHIPS, ART EXHIBITIONS, FILMS, ARTISTS, ETC. MISSION ALSO SUGGESTED TO GOC THAT IT ENTER SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO.

4. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTION ABOUT SOVIET ARMS AID TO EGYPT, LATIN AMERICA DIRECTOR OF FONMINISTRY YAMIL YAQUOUB RECOGNIZING CHILEAN FEAR AND DISLIKE OF USSR, ANSWERED WITH QUOTE OF CHURCHILL'S PRAGMATIC WILLINGNESS "TO MAKE A PACT WITH THE DEVIL" TO DEFEAT THE THE AXIS. ANOTHER FEATURE QUOTE FROM EGYPTIANS WAS KABIL'S ASSURANCE THAT CHILEAN COUP AND AFTERMATH IS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF CHILE, AND EGYPT HAS NOT AND WILL NOT "PARTICIPATE IN ANY TYPE OF CRITICISM AGAINST CHILE."

5. IF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION HAD ANY DOUBTS OF GOC DESIRE TO REMAIN ESSENTIALLY NEUTRAL IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, CHILE'S LEADING NEWSPAPER "EL MERCURIO" ON JULY 4 DEVOTED SIGNIFICANT PART OF POLITE EDITORIAL TO MAKING POINT THAT UN RESOLUTION 242 ALSO CALLS FOR ARAB RECOGNITION OF EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, AND THAT RESPECT FOR ISRAEL TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE MUST BE GUARANTEED BY UN.

6. COMMENT: WE JUDGE THAT BOTH SIDES ARE REASONABLY SATISFIED OVER OUTCOME OF VISIT OF EGYPTIAN MISSION, AND THAT BASIC SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED.
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